

FORM NO. 35-82  
NOV 1951

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

21 JAN 53

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OUT 82999

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SECURITY INFORMATION

ROUTING

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TO: CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

ROUTINE

FROM: CONF: EE 6

17114Z 22 JAN 53

DD/1, DD/P 2, FI, FI/OPS, FI/PLANS, FI/STC, FI/STD, FI/RQM 3,  
PP 3, PP/PAD, WE 2, FI/RI 2

INFORMATION:

PD-065

CIA PRELIM DISSEM

FROM : GERMANY, FRANKFURT  
EVALUATION : B-2  
SUBJECT : GERMAN REACTION TO NAUMANN ARREST  
DATE INFO : 18 JANUARY 1953  
SOURCE : FROM A WELL PLACED OFFICIAL OF THE WEST GERMAN  
GOVERNMENT IN BONN.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2E  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2008

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1. THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NAUMANN CIRCLE OF NAZIS RECENTLY ARRESTED BY THE BRITISH, BUT HAD TAKEN NO ACTION BECAUSE IT REGARDED THEIR ACTIVITIES AS BEING FAR FROM COORDINATED AND COULD FIND NO LEGAL BASIS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION. THE BRITISH WERE SO INFORMED TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE ARRESTS WERE MADE.

2. GERMAN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES DO NOT COMPREHEND THE MOTIVE FOR THE BRITISH ACTION. SPECULATION HAS BROUGHT FORWARD THE FOLLOWING HYPOTHESES:

A. THAT SIR IVONE KIRKPATRICK ACTED FROM PERSONAL AMBITION, TO BOLSTER HIS FUTURE POSITION.

B. THAT THE BRITISH WISHED TO COUNTERACT AN ALLEGED AMERICAN DECISION TO RELEASE MOST OF THE NAZI WAR CRIMINALS, BOTH THE IMPORTANT ONES AND THE OBSCURE ONES.

C. THAT THE BRITISH WANTED TO GRASP THE INITIATIVE FOLLOWING THE ALLEGED LACK OF SUCCESS OF THE TALKS BETWEEN CHURCHILL AND EISENHOWER.

D. THAT THE BRITISH HOPED TO FORESTALL ANY AMERICAN PLAN TO  
SECRET

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PD-065

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CUT 22899

SPONSOR A GERMAN NATIONAL ARMY IN CASE THE DEFENSE TREATIES SHOULD FAIL OF RATIFICATION.

3. DIRKPATRICK'S ACTION IS TAKEN BY THE GERMANS AS A DISCREDIT TO THE GERMAN SECURITY SERVICES. THE NEWS BECAME KNOWN IN BONN DURING A MEETING OF ALL THE STATE MINISTERS OF THE INTERIOR, WHO THEN DEMANDED AND RECEIVED FROM DR. OTTO JOHN A STATEMENT CONCERNING THE COVERAGE OF NEO-NAZI ACTIVITIES BY THE OFFICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CONSTITUTION, OF WHICH HE IS THE HEAD. DR. ROBERT LEHR, THE FEDERAL MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR AND OTHER IMPORTANT OFFICIALS IN BONN ARE URGING CHANCELLOR KONRAD ADENAUER TO WRITE A LETTER TO KIRKPATRICK ASKING FOR AN EXPLANATION.

4. CHANCELLOR ADENAUER, MR. REBER, AND HIGH COMMISSIONER FRANCOIS-PONCET WERE INFORMED OF THE ARRESTS SIMULTANEOUSLY BY THREE DIFFERENT BRITISH OFFICERS.

FIELD DISTRIBUTION: NONE INDICATED  
FORMAL DISSEM FOLLOWS IN SODB-62837 (END OF MESSAGE).

(ABOVE INFO BASED ON BONN 0454 (IN 32064)

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